

said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

#### ¶105.48 FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4309. An Act to provide a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1853) "An Act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act."

#### ¶105.49 SUSPENSION OF THE RULES NOTICE

Mr. MICA, pursuant to House Resolution 575, at 11:03 p.m. announced the Speaker would recognize Members for motions to suspend the rules under clause 2 of rule XXVII with respect to the following bills to be considered today: (H.R. 4651) to make minor and technical amendments relating to Federal Criminal Law and Procedure; (H.R. 1197) to amend title 35, United States Code, to protect patent owners against the unauthorized sale of plant parts taken from plants illegally reproduced and for other purposes or (S. 1072) Plane Patent Amendments; (H.R. 2431) to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engages in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes; (H. Con. Res. 334) relating to Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization; (H. Con. Res. 320) supporting the Baltic people of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and condemning Nazi-Soviet Pact of Non-Agression of August 23, 1939; (S. 2094) to amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 to enable the Secretary of the Interior to more effectively use the proceeds from the sale of certain items; (S. 2505) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey title to the Tunnison Lab Hagerman Field Station in Gooding County, Idaho, to the University of Idaho; (H. Con. Res. 214) recognizing the contributions of the cities of Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia, and their people to the origins and development of Country Music, and for other purposes; (S. 2432) to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; (H.R. 2616) to amend titles VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools; A bill on Veterans' Programs Enhancement Act of 1998; (S.

852) to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the titling and registration of salvage, nonrepairable, and rebuilt vehicles; (S. 1260) to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law and for other purposes; (H.R. 4567) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make revisions in the per beneficiary and per visit payment limits on payment for health services under the Medicare program; (H.R. 4052) to establish designations for United States Postal Service buildings located in Coconut Grove, Opa Locka, Carol City, and Miami, Florida; (S. 2370) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Tall Timbers Village Square, United States Highway 19 Sosuth, in Thomasville, Georgia, as the "Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper Station"; (H.R. 2187) to designate the United States Courthouse located at 40 Foley Square in New York, New York, as the "Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse"; and (H.R. 2560) to award congressional gold medals to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred to collectively as the "Little Rock Nine" on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

#### ¶105.50 VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. MICA moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill of the Senate (S. 1021) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that consideration may not be denied to preference eligibles applying for certain positions in the competitive services, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BLUNT, recognized Mr. MICA and Mr. CUMMINGS, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, viva voce,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. BLUNT, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk notify the Senate thereof.

#### ¶105.51 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES LIFE INSURANCE

Mr. MICA moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2675) to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit proposed legisla-

tion under which group universal life insurance and group variable universal life insurance would be available under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Employees Life Insurance Improvement Act".

#### SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON CERTAIN LIFE INSURANCE OPTIONS OFFERED TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than July 31, 1998, the Office of Personnel Management shall conduct a study on life insurance options for Federal employees described under subsection (b) and submit a report to Congress.

(b) *STUDY AND REPORT*.—The study and report referred to under subsection (a) shall—

(1) survey and ascertain the interest of Federal employees in an offering under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, of insurance coverage options relating to—

(A) group universal life insurance;

(B) group variable universal life insurance; and

(C) additional voluntary accidental death and dismemberment insurance; and

(2) include any comments, analysis, and recommendations of the Office of Personnel Management relating to such options.

#### SEC. 3. REPEAL OF MAXIMUM LIMITATION ON EMPLOYEE INSURANCE.

Chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 8701(c), in the first sentence, by striking the comma immediately following "\$10,000" and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(2) in section 8714b(b), in the first sentence, by striking "except" and all that follows and inserting a period.

#### SEC. 4. FOSTER CHILD COVERAGE.

Section 8701(d)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting "or foster child" after "stepchild" both places it appears.

#### SEC. 5. INCONTESTABILITY OF ERRONEOUS COVERAGE.

Section 8706 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by section 5(2), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) The insurance of an employee under a policy purchased under section 8709 shall not be invalidated based on a finding that the employee erroneously became insured, or erroneously continued insurance upon retirement or entitlement to compensation under subchapter I of chapter 81 of this title, if such finding occurs after the erroneous insurance and applicable withholdings have been in force for 2 years during the employee's lifetime."

#### SEC. 6. DIRECT PAYMENT OF INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS.

Chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 8707—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "(a) During" and inserting "(a) Subject to subsection (c)(2), during";

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "(b)(1) Whenever" and inserting "(b)(1) Subject to subsection (c)(2), whenever"; and

(C) in subsection (c), by inserting "(1)" immediately after "(c)" and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) An employee who is subject to withholdings under this section and whose pay, annuity, or compensation is insufficient to cover such withholdings may nevertheless continue insurance if the employee arranges to pay currently into the Employees' Life Insurance Fund, through the agency or retirement system that administers pay, annuity, or compensation, an amount equal to the withholdings that would otherwise be required under this section."

(2) in section 8714a(d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph: